category are made depending upon the availability of stock of foodgrains in the Central Pool. Allocations of foodgrains for the APL category were made in larger quantities during earlier period to liquidate surplus stocks available in the Central Pool. However, keeping in view the declining stocks position of foodgrains in the Central Pool from 2006-07, the allocation of wheat and rice under TPDS to States/UTs for the APL category have been rationalized with effect from June, 2006 and April,2007 respectively, on the basis of offtake levels during the previous, 3 years i.e. 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06.

Presently the State of Kerala is being made monthly allocation of 28,833 tons of foodgrains (17,056 tons rice and 11,777 tons wheat) for APL category. Allocation of APL rice to Kerala during 2008-09 is as per applicable allocation norms *i.e.* based on average of offtake during 2006-07 and 2007-08. There is no reduction of rice quota to the State. However, keeping in view the requests received from the State Government during the current year 2008-09, as an exception to applicable allocation norms, the Central Government has made additional allocation of 89,000 tons of rice at APL rate to Kerala, thus increasing the total allocation of rice to the State under APL category to last year's offtake level of 2.94 lakh tons.

Details of allocation and offtake of rice under APL category for the period from 2005-06 to 2008-09 (upto October 2008) are as under:

(In thousand tons)

Year	Allocation (APL rice)	Offtake
2005-06	1,361.040	57.492
2006-07	1,361.040	180.737
2007-08	307.008	294.412
2008-09	293.672	129.221*

* Upto October 2008.

It can be seen from the above details, offtake of APL rice in Kerala has been lower than allocations, even in the year 2007-08. Further, the allocations of rice during 2007-08 and 2008-09 to the State are much more than the offtake by the State during 2006-07.

Food Security

2066.SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the food crisis that country is now witnessing is not a sudden emergence but a creation of deliberate policies and laws that have over a period of time practically taken away country's food security;

(b) whether India has witnessed very high increase in prices of essential commodities;

(c) whether Government has intervened at every step to create corporate monopolies in food system from seed to domestic production and trade including the food processing to liberalize import and export oriented agriculture to corporate retail; and

(d) if so, the concrete measures and steps Government has taken to check food crisis in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir. The country is not witnessing any food crisis. Adequate stocks of foodgrains are available in the country.

(b) On account of effective foodgrains supply management coupled with a slew of price control measures, the country experienced a very moderate price rise in comparison to the international prices over at least last one and a half years.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The Government promotes over all policy of inclusive and equitable economic growth necessary for sustainable development to knit and integrate economically and socially challenged sections of society into mainstream and draw them into a cycle of growth, development and empowerment, eventually broadening and deepening the spectrum of growth. Therefore, Government has taken various short-term fiscal, administrative and monetary measures, besides medium-term strategy initiatives to ensure adequate availability of food stocks in the country at affordable prices, addressing interests of all the stakeholders.

Privatisation of sugar factories

2067.MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to privatize sugar factories;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the number of such companies that are proposed to be privatised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) M/s Ganesh Sugar Mills, a unit of M/s Swadeshi Mining & Manufacturing Co. (SMMC) Ltd., which stood vested with National Textiles Corporation (UP) Ltd., after nationalization of Swadeshi group of mills in 1986, was lying closed. Due to continuous losses, SMMC was declared sick by the Board of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). The Hon'ble High Court, Allahabad, *vide* its order dated 09.09.2008 has, *interalia*, directed that the NTC (UP) Ltd. to invite expression of interest for revival through joint venture from interested parties by making all India advertisement on the leading newspapers and submit proposal to the Court.

There is no other sugar company which is under the administrative control of the Central Government.

Report of price monitoring cell regarding price rise

2068.SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state: